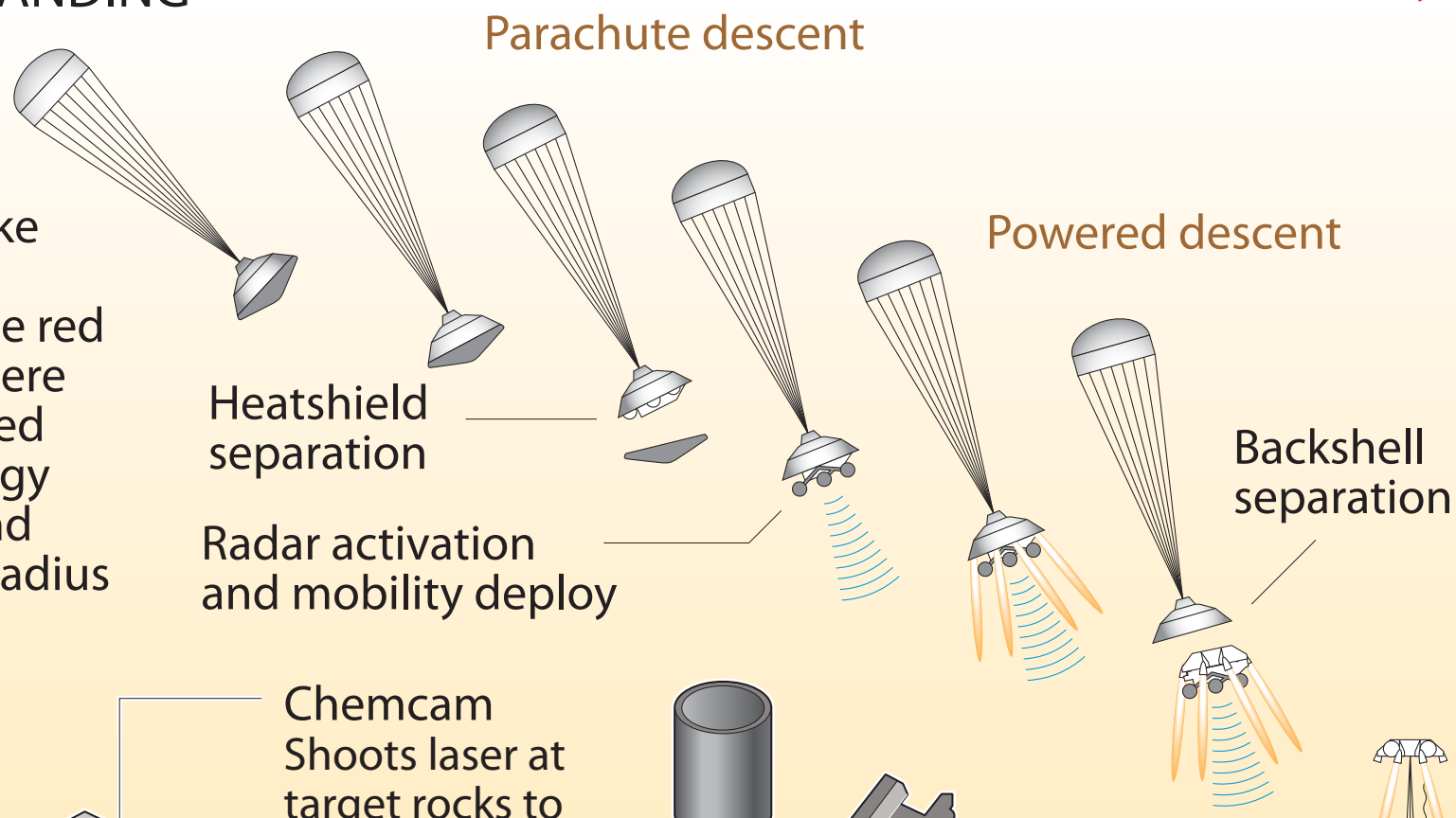


# Mars Science Laboratory

NASA is set to launch on Saturday a large mobile robot that will explore and conduct experiments on the surface of Mars, to assess whether the planet ever had an environment capable of supporting life

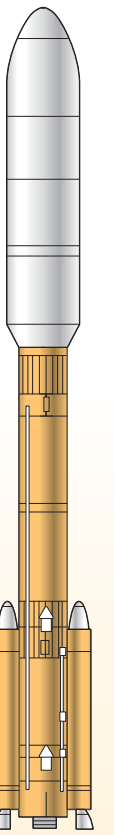
## PRECISION LANDING

After launching from Earth, the spacecraft will take an 8 1/2 months cruise to reach the red planet's atmosphere where its equipped landing technology will allow it to land within a 12 mile radius



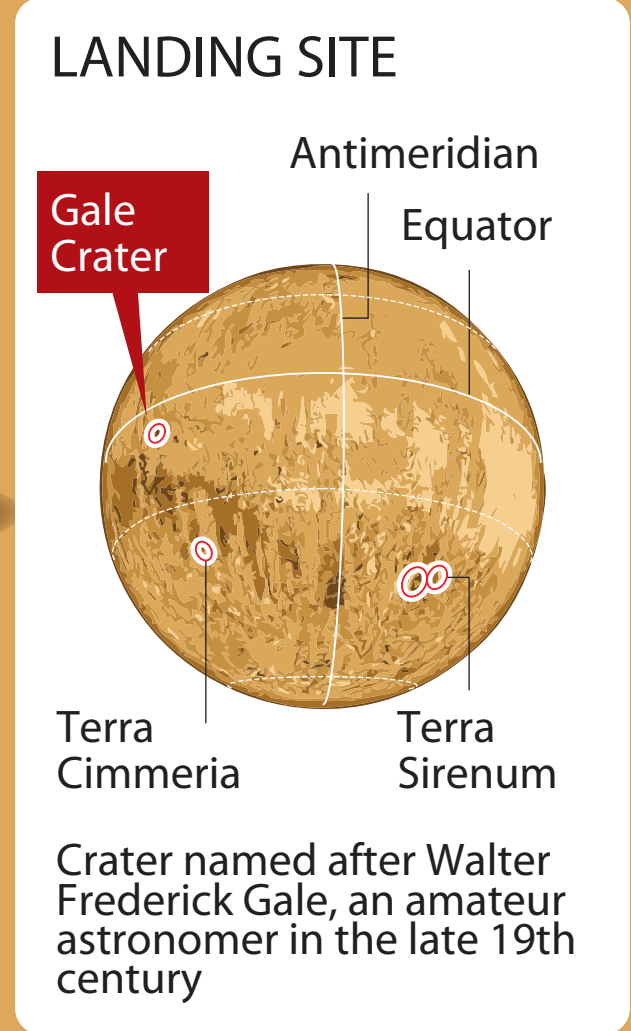
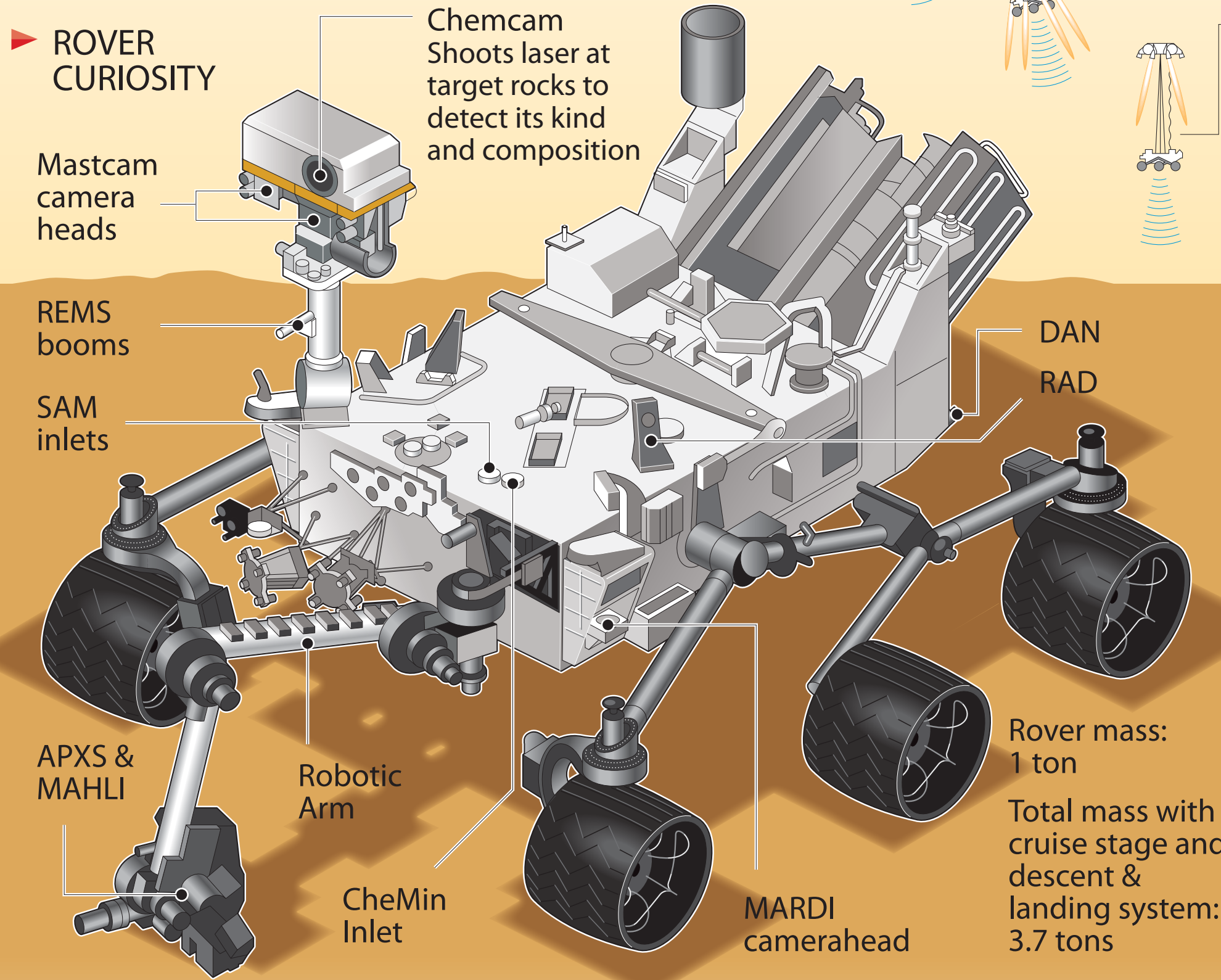
## LAUNCH VEHICLE

Atlas V-541  
Length: 190 ft  
Total mass, fully-fueled with spacecraft: 585 tons



Landing on Mars by Aug. 2012

## ROVER CURIOSITY

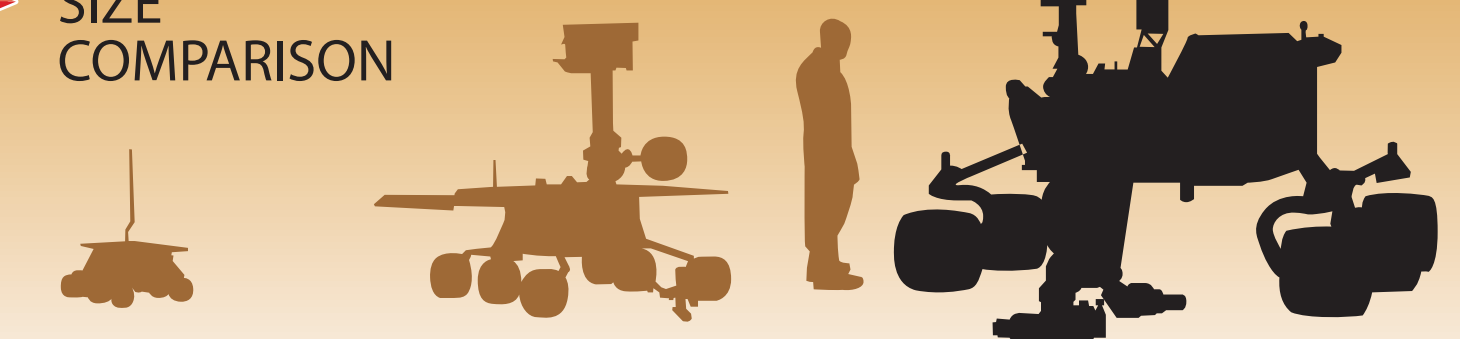


Rover mass: 1 ton  
Total mass with cruise stage and descent & landing system: 3.7 tons

## MAIN INSTRUMENTS

- REMS - Rover Environment Monitoring Station
- SAM - Sample Analysis at Mars
- APXS - Alpha Particle X-Ray, Spectrometer
- MAHLI - Mars Hand Lens Imager
- MARDI - Mars Descent Imager
- RAD - Radiation Assessment Detector
- DAN - Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons

## SIZE COMPARISON



Mars Pathfinder (1997)      Mars Exploration Rover (2007-2010)      Mars Science Laboratory (2011)